

UNDER A DARKENING SKY

The bells were rung and the city was illuminated. Horse and foot were promptly despatched to support the insurgents, and to each town the Florentines sent a red standard with *Libertas* emblazoned upon it in white letters, which, together with the flag of the Commune, floated in front of their troops. Each place as it rose was received into the league; but, although the Florentines rigidly abstained from gaining any advantage to themselves, they cared less for the liberation of the people than for the expulsion of their pastors. Without any protest from them, the former tyrants, whom Cardinal Albornoz had expelled, in many cases returned; Francesco di Vico seized Viterbo for himself, Sinibaldo degli Ordelaffi (the son of the formidable Francesco) entered Forlì, the Alidosi retook Imola, and the Polentani Ravenna, while Count Antonio da Montefeltro occupied Urbino.

Catherine was still at Pisa when the news of the revolution in the Papal States reached the city. She was at that time staying in a hospice in the piazza di Santa Caterina, near the convent and church of the Dominicans. Fra Raimondo and his companion, Fra Pietro da Velletri, told her the news. "This is milk and honey," she said, "in comparison with what is to follow. Thus, father, do the lay folk act now, but soon you will see how much worse will be the deeds of ecclesiastics. When the Roman Pontiff will strive to correct their wicked lives, they will cause a universal scandal in the whole Holy Church of God, which, in the fashion of a pestilent heresy, will divide her and torment her."¹ Thus, Raimondo assures us, did Catherine foretell the schism which they were both soon to witness.

After this overwhelming triumph for the Florentines, it became increasingly dangerous for Pisa and Lucca to resist their overtures. It was probably before leaving Pisa that Catherine made a fresh appeal to the Anziani of Lucca by letter, not to forsake the cause of the Church. "If you tell me that it seems that she is failing and cannot even help herself, much less her children, I answer that it is not so, although it may seem like it to the outward show. If you look within, you will find that strength of ¹ *Legend*, II. x. 8-10 (§ § 484-286).